

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MILAN 0121

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PINR, IT
SUBJECT: MILAN PSI REACTION TO MANCINI - DE MARTINO ATTACK ON
CRAXI

1. GIVEN TOPICALITY OF CONTROVERSY STIRRED UP BY PRESS ACCOUNTS
MEETING BETWEEN OLD LINE PSI EX-SECRETARIES GIACOMO MANICINI AND
FRANCESCO DE MARTINO, WE REPORT BELOW REACTIONS TO THEIR
INITIATIVE OF GROUP OF MILAN SOCIALIST LEADERS WITH WHOM WE
LUNCHEDED JANUARY 21. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS ON OTHER SUBJECTS OF INTEREST
THAT EMERGED.

2. SOCIALISTS CONDEMNED MANCINI-DE MARTINO MOVE AS VERY DISRUPTIVE
FOR PARTY, DIRECTING MOST OF THEIR IRE AT MANCINI. BOTH
MILAN CITY SECRETARY GIANSTEFANO MILANI AND PROVINCIAL VICE-SECRE-
TARY MAURIZIO RICOTTI SAID TWO EX-LEADERS WERE WASHED UP AND SHOULD
REALIZE IT. THEY APPARENTLY COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT YOUNGER PEOPLE
HAD NOW TAKEN OVER PARTY AND WERE FIGHTING TO REGAIN THEIR
POWER.

3. INTERESTINGLY, ANOTHER PARTICIPANT AT LUNCH HAD SAID WEEK EARLIER
THAT MANCINI WAS THROUGH. MILAN PSI PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER
VALERIO BITETTO TOLD US JANUARY 14 THAT MANICINI'S SUPPORT IN MILAN
AS WELL AS ELSEWHERE IN LOMBARDY HAD ERODED SERIOUSLY SINCE CRAXI'S
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TAKEOVER. AFTER HAVING BEEN ELECTED SECRETARY WITH MANCINI'S
HELP, CRAXI HAD BEEN ADROIT ENOUGH TO CUT MANCINI'S SUPPORT
OUT FROM UNDER HIM. CRAXI NO LONGER DEPENDED ON MANCINI TO
STAY IN POWER.

4. WITH REGARD TO MANCINI-DE MARTINO SUGGESTION THAT PSI THINK OF
RE-ENTERING GOVERNMENT ON OTHER THAN EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT BASIS,

RICOTTI AND MILANI WERE ADAMANT THAT SUCH STEP IMPOSSIBLE AT PRESENT. WHETHER WOULD-BE PARTNER WAS PCI OR DC. PSI RANK & FILE DETERMINED THAT PARTY SHOULD BE INDEPENDENT OF COMMUNISTS. AS FOR DC, ANY PSI OFFICIAL SUGGESTING REVIVAL OF CENTER-LEFT GOVERNMENT TO MEMBERSHIP "WOULD RISK GETTING CHAIR BROKEN OVER HIS HEAD."

5. MILAN PSI, THEREFORE, SEEMS UNITED IN REJECTION OF MANCINI-DE MARTINO COME BACK ATTEMPT AND SUPPORT FOR PARTY SECRETARY CRAXI. MILAN PROVINCIAL PSI RELEASED STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT OVER WEEKEND. MILAN MAYOR CARLO TOGNOLI (AUTONOMIST) AT SAME TIME UNLEASHED SHORT BUT ACERBIC ATTACK ON MANCINI FOR HIS ATTEMPT AT DISRUPTION. INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT RICOTTI, WHOSE DISPLEASURE AT MANCINI-DE MARTINO PLAY RECORDED ABOVE, HAS BEEN CATEGORIZED AS DEMARTINIANO, FACT WHICH UNDERSCORES BOTH WIDE RANGE OF PARTY OPINION THAT WANTS TO SEE CRAXI SUCCEED AS WELL AS INCREASING UNTRUSTWORTHINESS WITHIN PSI OF THESE FACTIONAL LABELS.FINA

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